

SENATE BILL 3750  
By Fowler

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 16-15-903, relative to serving process by mail on general sessions court defendants located within the state.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 16-15-903, is amended by adding the following as a new, appropriately designated subsection:

(11) When the laws of Tennessee permit service of warrant, writ or other papers by registered or certified mail, and the addressee or the addressee's agent refuses to accept delivery, and the refusal to accept delivery is stated on the return receipt provided by the United States postal service, then the written return receipt, if returned and filed in the action, shall be deemed a valid service of the warrant, writ or other papers. Service by mail is complete upon mailing. For purposes of this subdivision (11), the United States postal service notation that a properly addressed registered or certified letter is "unclaimed," or other similar notation, is sufficient evidence of the defendant's refusal to accept delivery. If the entity to be served by mail is a limited liability company, a domestic corporation or a foreign corporation doing business in this state, the return receipt mail shall be addressed to the registered agent or managing agent, as applicable, at the registered address on file with the secretary of state. If the entity to be served by mail is a partnership or unincorporated association, the return receipt mail shall be addressed to a partner or managing agent, as applicable.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.